

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

The sulfonate polymers of the invention can be obtained by the free-radical copolymerization of a sulfonate ~~monomers~~ monomer and an olefinic co-monomer. Non-limiting examples of suitable olefinic co-monomers include ones from the following compounds and groups: acrylic acid and its salt; methacrylic acid and its salt; acrylates; methacrylates; acrylamide; methacrylamide; vinyl acetate; n-vinyl pyrrolidone; styrene; vinyl chloride; acrylonitrile; and allyl.